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REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

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ONLY 53% OF CLASS 6 STUDENTS KNOW TABLES UP TO 10: GOVT

The findings were a part of a survey by Education Ministry covering 21,15,022 students in Grades 3, 6 and 9, spread across 74,229 schools in India

HALF OF CLASS 3 KIDS KNOW SUBTRACTION

According to the survey, only 55% of students in Class 3 can arrange numbers up to 99 in ascending or descending order while 58% can perform addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers. In Class 6, 53% of students know addition and multiplication tables up to 10 and can apply the four basic operations on whole numbers to solve daily life problems

CLASS 9 GOVT SCHOOLS SHINE IN LANGUAGES

- In Class 6, an additional subject 'The World Around Us', which covers environment and society, was introduced alongside Language and Mathematics. Students scored lowest in Mathematics (46%)
- In the case of Class 9, students from Central Government schools performed the best across all subjects, with a clear lead in languages

36

STATES WERE COVERED IN THE LEARNING SURVEY BY THE CENTRE

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

TRAGEDY ON THE TRACKS

Three students died when a train rammed into their school van at a manned level crossing in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday morning. Two pairs of siblings were in the van. Only one of them and the van driver had a miraculous escape. A bystander, who rushed to help, was badly injured after coming into contact with a high-tension wire that snapped from the overhead electric system. The survivors said the gate was not closed by the gatekeeper, who has been arrested | SRIRAM R | P9

Ahead of election, Nitish tweaks job quota for women

Restricts 35% reservation for women in govt employment to only those who hail from Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

WITH Bihar assembly elections less than four months away, the Nitish Kumar government on Tuesday restricted the 35% quota in place for women in all government jobs since 2016, to only those who hail from the state.

The decision was seen as an attempt by Nitish to further consolidate his already strong female vote-bank.

A final call to enforce the domicile criteria was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Nitish Kumar

"Only women native of Bihar will be eligible for 35% horizontal reservation in direct recruitment across all government service cadres in Bihar," said S Siddharth, additional chief secretary, after the meeting.

Till now, women from outside the state, too, were beneficiaries of the 35% reservation in government jobs.

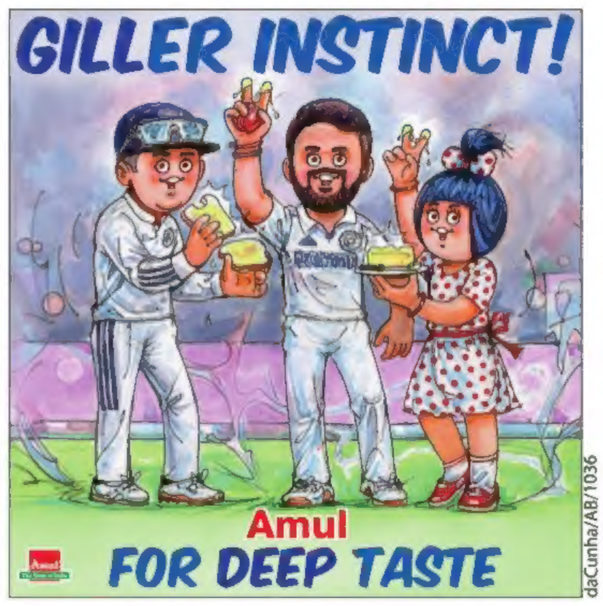
Siddharth said, "Women from other states applying for Bihar government jobs will be treated as general category. They will not get the benefit of 35% women's reservation." Earlier, candidates from neighbouring UP and elsewhere, too, were appointed as teachers in government-run schools in Bihar under the quota.

The decision to restrict the quota came amid intense push for implementing the domicile policy by the Opposition. Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav had supported the domicile demand of job aspirants for teaching positions in government schools, who took out a protest march and held a demonstration in Patna recently.

This is the first instance of domicile policy being implemented by the state government in the recent past. Union minister Nityanand Rai said, "The decision will ultimately make women from the state self-reliant and embolden them."

In another pre-poll sop, the the cabinet decided to set up a Bihar Youth Commission to enhancejob opportunities for them. JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said it will make the youth self-reliant, skilled and job-oriented.

However, Tejashwi accused the Nitish government of 'stealing' the promises made by the RJD. "The 20-year-old tired government has no vision of its own. People want to get rid of the government," he told the media.



TRADE DEAL BALL IN U.S. COURT: INDIA

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

WITH the US government sending letters to over a dozen countries informing them of the reciprocal tariff they are likely to attract on exports to the US, the suspense over the trade deal with India continues. Even as President Donald Trump on Monday hinted that the US is hours away from announcing a deal with India, back home the government is in a wait-and-watch mode.

"The ball is in the US court, we negotiated with the US officials, now it is up to them," said an official, who refused to be identified. Citing the Vietnam trade deal announced by the US, the official said Trump has been unilaterally making a lot of announcements, which are later refuted by the respective countries.

Donald Trump

The Indian government was confident of signing a limited deal by July 9, but with the US issuing a new deadline of August 1, the announcement may get delayed. The Indian government has maintained that it is not desperate for an early trade deal at the cost of the country's interest.

K'taka forms dist-level task force to tackle child trafficking, missing cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN response to growing concerns over child trafficking and unresolved missing children cases, the Karnataka government has constituted special task forces (STF) at the district level to trace missing and abducted children across the state.

The decision follows a directive from the Karnataka Legislative Committee on Women and Child Welfare, which raised the issue during a meeting on June 20. The circular stated that numerous cases of children being abducted and going missing have been reported in the state and such cases are a serious violation of children's rights. The task force aims to ensure a coordinated and accountable response to prevent such incidents and protect vulnerable children.

Police heads of districts will be chairmen of the task force and there will be 10 members from various departments. The district child protection officer will be the member secretary.

The task force should meet every month to review the progress of child abduction and missing children cases. District child protection officers are required to submit mandatory reports to the Directorate of Child Protection by the end of every month.

CHILDREN KIDNAP CASES IN STATE

2023	3,462*
2024	3,797
2025 (till May)	1,723

* No. of cases

The task force will summon the parents of missing children during the meetings to collect any additional information that may assist in tracing the children. The task force is also responsible for providing counselling, moral support and psychological assistance to affected families.

It will launch and monitor special district-level campaigns, in coordination with various departments, to address cases that have remained unresolved over several years. P9

Truckers call off stir after govt promise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TRUCKERS transporting rice for free distribution under Anna Bhagya scheme withdrew their indefinite strike on Tuesday after the state government issued an order to clear their pending dues.

The truckers went on strike on Monday seeking clearance of Rs 260 crore dues. In its order, the government approved release of Rs 244.10 crore towards incidental expenses, including transportation charges, incurred by truckers from February to May.

GR Shanmugappa, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association and Retail Transport Contractors' Association, said, "After our strike call, the government held a discussion and sent a letter to the Finance Department to settle truckers' dues. The government promised to settle all dues in 48 hours."

"All truckers have decided to withdraw their indefinite strike and resume operations," he said.

Dassault rubbishes Pak propaganda, says only one IAF Rafale crashed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE protracted debate on loss of the Indian Air Force's Rafale combat jets, which Pakistan claimed to have shot down, was debunked by the CEO of Dassault, which manufactures the fighter aircraft.

Dassault Aviation Chairman and CEO Eric Trappier was quoted as saying that no Rafale was shot down in combat, but India had lost one aircraft due to technical failure, and a probe into it is currently on.

Trappier was quoted by French website Avion De Chasse as saying that there was no enemy engagement in the loss of a Rafale. The incident "occurred at an altitude of over 12,000 metres during an extended training mission, with no enemy involvement or hostile radar contact," the report said.

FATF: TERRORISTS ABUSED E-COMM SITES

Terror financing watchdog FATF cited the February 2019 Pulwama terror attack to point out that e-commerce platforms were misused by terror outfits. FATF said aluminium used in IED used in the 2019 attack was procured through Amazon by terror outfits

Speaking specifically on Pakistan's allegations that three Indian Dassault Rafales were reportedly shot down during the four-day Operation Sindoor launched by India, Trappier said the allegations were "inaccurate and unfounded".

Trappier took on Pakistan for false claims in a press conference on June 15, which Avi-on De Chasse reported.

During the press conference, Trappier formally refuted the idea of an operational failure, quoting the Spectra electronic warfare systems that had not recorded any hostile engagements during the time slot in question.

Further, the friend/foe identification devices and the flight logs transmitted to Dassault indicated no losses in actual combat, he said.

As per the French Intelligence and military officials, it was China which was behind the smear campaign against the Rafale fighters.

Indian nurse to be executed in Yemen on July 16

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

INDIAN nurse Nimisha Priya, who was handed a death penalty in Yemen, will reportedly be executed on July 16, but her family said they have not received any information yet.

Human rights activist Samuel Jerome who is part of the team to save her, told this paper, "a letter of execution has been issued and jail authorities have officially informed me of the date. I am now back in Yemen ... there is still hope if the victim's family accepts the blood money. Some people have come forward again to help her."

There was no official word on the development. But sources told this newspaper, "Nimisha Priya was convicted for murder in Yemen in June 2018 and a local court handed out death sentence to her. We have been closely following the matter since then."

Nimisha Priya

Tomy Thomas, Nimisha's husband, said "We haven't received any official communication. We only learned about it through media reports and are waiting."

Samuel is involved in negotiations with Yemeni authorities and the family of the victim, Talal Abdo Mahdi. According to reports, the Yemeni public prosecutor has issued an order scheduling the execution for July 16. The death sentence was upheld by Yemen's Supreme Judicial Council in November 2023. The ruling allowed for possibility of clemency by paying blood money to the victim's family. This aspect is the focus of Nimisha Priya Action Council, which is working to save her life.

EXPRESS READ

NIA arrests B'luru jail psychiatrist, 2 others

Bengaluru: The NIA on Tuesday arrested Bengaluru Central Prison psychiatrist Dr Nagaraj, ASI Chand Pasha and Anees Fathima, mother of an absconding accused, in a 2023 radicalisation of prisoners case by LeT terrorist Tadiyandavede Naseer | P3

HC stays order to close Jan Aushadi Kendras

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday stayed the operation of the Health Department order to close all Jan Aushadi Kendras (JAKs), operating on the premises of government hospitals across the state | P9

India ordered blocking of 2,355 accounts: X

New Delhi: Elon Musk-led X on Tuesday said the Indian government ordered the platform to block 2,355 accounts, including those of international outlets like Reuters and ReutersWorld, without providing proper justification | P15

'CM sir' to take classes for legislators on budget, admin

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

FOR the first time, Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** will hold classes for MLAs and MLCs on the state's finances, administration and other issues. Assembly Speaker UT Khader said the classes will be held during the monsoon session of the legislature that is likely to start from August 11.

Siddaramaiah holds the record for presenting the highest number of 16 budgets in Karnataka. "His experience in finance and administration makes him a resource person for legislators," the Speaker said. The classes will be held behind closed doors at Vidhana Soudha or any nearby hotel.

Sources in the Assembly explained that many legislators don't know the basics of budget, like what is surplus budget, receipts, expenses, taxes and other financial terms. This is also one of the reasons why many hesitate to speak during budget sessions.

The sources said the classes had been planned during the budget session, but the chief minister faced health issues and he was not able to stand for long. "Now, the classes will be held during the coming session. But it has not been decided whether it will be one class or two," the sources said. P9

RCB PIP MI

IPL's business value worth over ₹1,55,000 cr

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

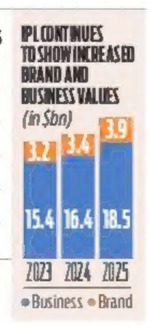
THE business value of the Indian Premier League (IPL) has jumped by over 10 per cent in the last year, according to the global investment firm, Houlihan Lokey. HL, who have come out with yearly IPL brand valuation studies, held that IPL's current business value stands at $18.5bn (over ₹155,000 cr; in 2024, it was $16.4bn). The firm said that the IPL's brand value has also surged from $3.4bn to $3.9bn (over ₹32,000 cr). "This growth underscores the league's expanding commercial appeal, global reach and deepening fan engagement," the report said.

The 18th edition of the league, won by Bengaluru franchise for the first time last month, helped the franchise become the No. 1 in terms of brand value in the 10-team league. Its brand value in 2025 stands at just under $270mn, up by 18.5% in the last 12 months. Chennai Super Kings, who had a blowout season, fell down to third place. In fact, out of all 10 teams, the franchise registered the lowest percentage gain (less than 2%) on a year on year basis. Punjab Kings, who advanced to the final, registered a whopping 39.6% jump in brand value.

Brand values have increased for all 10 teams

TEAMS	2025	2024	CHANGE	TEAMS	2025	2024	CHANGE
RCB	269	227	18.5%	DC	152	131	16%
MI	242	204	18.6%	RR	146	133	9.8%
CSK	235	231	1.7%	GT	142	124	14.5%
KKR	227	216	5.1%	PBKS	141	101	39.6%
SRH	154	132	16.7%	LSG	122	91	34.1%

All figures in $mn • All data from Houlihan Lokey's IPL Valuation Study 2025 (a copy of the report is with this daily)



The IPL's principal stakeholders like to compare themselves with the US' Big Four and the EPL and HL maintain that they are expected to become bigger in the years to come as there are several built in advantages. "When benchmarked against global peers like EPL and NBA teams," the report added, "that wrestle with high player transfer fees, variable wages and high stadium operating costs (including servicing stadium debt), IPL franchisees operate with an asset-light, revenue-guaranteed model, a structure that not only cushions downside risk but also amplifies operating leverage on the upside."